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To an Unlikely Spot

Women like Dr. Penelope Hartland Thunberg command both admiration and awe. She is the career Government economist who has just been appointed to the \$20,000-a-year vacancy on the United States Tariff Commission.

This six-member board is not exactly the place that would appeal to many women in the first place. It investigates tariff and foreign trade matters for the President and Congress. In the words of the Government Manual, "it is continuously engaged in the collection of a wide range of technical and economic data relating to the economic conditions underlying competition between domestic and foreign industries." If all this sounds formidable, it also sounds complex—and a little dull.

In the second place, not many women (or men, either, for that matter) are qualified in this esoteric field. Since Mrs. Thunberg (her husband is a coal research specialist in the Interior Department) is an independent voter unaffiliated with any political party, she must have been chosen for her brain.

Her qualifications bear this out: a former college teacher of economics who has been in or close to Federal service since 1950 with the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Council of Economic Advisers, and the Central Intelligence Agency, lastly heading the Trade and Services Division. These were not sinecure posts.

Mrs. Thunberg is the second woman Mr. Johnson has named to what we would consider an unlikely spot. The first was Mrs. Virginia Mae Brown, who last year joined the Interstate Commerce Commission. If anything is more intricate

(and dusty) than customs duties and policies, it is the regulation of the railroads.

The President has demonstrated again that he is not appointing women to top jobs just because they are women but because they know how to get the work done.